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The Growing Threat to Information Systems Security

Information technology costs for the Federal Government exceeded \$25 billion in 1995. Within its civilian agencies, the Government employed 120,000 information technology personnel and operated 25,000 medium and large mainframe computers, more than two million individual work stations.¹ The Department of Defense has over two million computers, 10,000 local area networks, and 100 long-distance networks. The civilian agencies have a critical responsibility to maintain privacy and service to the public using automated data processing and relying on the Information Infrastructure. Just as critical to the Department of Defense is its ability to carry out any mission that is dependent on information carried on and supported by the NII. If the capabilities of both the civilian and military sectors of government are heavily dependent upon an unsecured, potentially unstable Internet, the Government must address whether this reliance on the NII (and GII) is acceptable and, if so, how to manage the risk involved.

Notwithstanding considerable expenditures on information technology, there exists a widening chasm between the security requirements of and the protection provided for critical information systems government wide and those applied to the civilian...

Source: *The Los Angeles Times*, December 16, 1974.
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Fig. 2

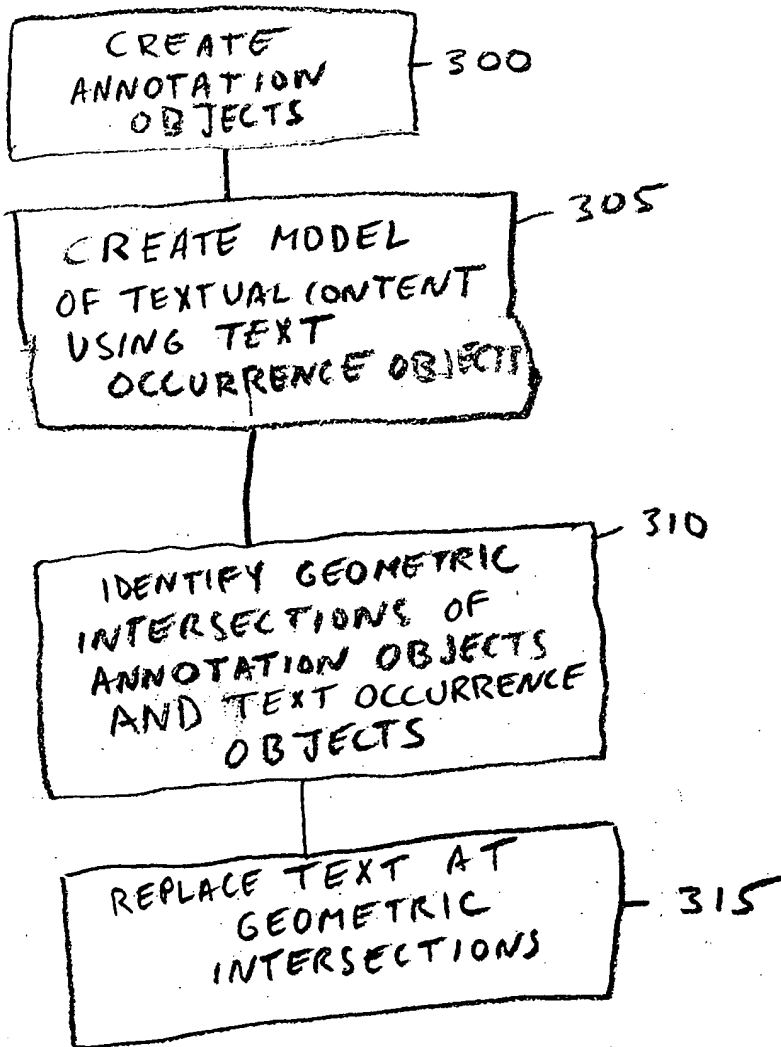


Fig. 3

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